

# RADCLIFFE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman - WALKER ALLEN JUN. ESQ., J.P.

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## TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT

Presented to the Board

March 11th, 1895,

BY

WILLIAM SELLERS Junr.

M.D. (Lond.), Dip. San. Sci., Vict.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*Express, types., Radcliffe.*

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RADCLIFFE,

February, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my twelfth annual report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the district.

During the first half (25 weeks) of the year, I have estimated the population at the same number as for 1893 ; during the second half, the Stand Lane District has been added and for this period I have estimated the population at 25,000.

I have appended tables shewing the births and deaths during the year, but owing to the alteration in the boundary of the district I have not, as in former years, given tables of the mortality for several years previously.

The birth and death rates per 1000 given are the mean of two separate calculations for each half of the year.

**Births.**—Of the 715 births registered 348 were males and 367 were females. These figures give a birth rate of 31 per 1000 per annum against a rate of 29·5 for 1893.

**Deaths.**—The number of deaths was 364. Of these 178 were males, and 186 were females. This mortality is equivalent to a death rate of 16 per 1,000, which is the lowest I have ever known in Radcliffe, and compares very favourably with the death rate for 1893 (20·2 per 1,000). In fact, in spite of the addition of over 4,000 persons to the population during half the year there were fewer deaths by 55 in 1894 than in 1893.

**Infantile Mortality.**—The deaths of children under the age of five years numbered 154, and of these 109 were under the age of 1 year. Infantile mortality is usually measured in terms of the number of deaths under one year per 1,000 births. Measured in this way the rate in Radcliffe for 1894 is 152 per 1,000, which is much lower than the usual rate in other large towns in Lancashire, and in Radcliffe also in former years.

**Zymotic Diseases.**—The number of deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases was 22, a mortality equal to a zymotic death rate of



9 per 1,000, compared with 4 per 1,000 in 1893. This great decrease in the zymotic mortality is due to the absence of any measles epidemic during 1894, this disease having caused no fewer than 33 deaths during 1893, and also to the fewness of the deaths from diarrhoea (11), as compared with 31 recorded in the dry summer of 1893.

**Smallpox.**—On May 16th I was called in to a case of smallpox in Sion Street, probably contracted, as afterwards appeared, from a supposed case of chicken-pox in the same row of houses. The patient was isolated with two nurses, and the husband went and lived away from home. Both nurses were vaccinated, and in both the vaccination was successful. After the recovery of the patient the bedding, &c., were disinfected, and the house, cleansed, and limewashed, and from this case I believe no further infection occurred.

On May 22nd, the house &c., where the case of chicken-pox had occurred was as far as possible disinfected and cleansed. On this date a third case occurred in Blackburn Street, but this was removed to hospital and disinfection promptly attended. Re-vaccination was advised to the other inmates. On May 31st another case occurred in a married woman in Howarth Street. The source of infection in this case was not certain, but the patient's husband associated frequently with the former patient from Blackburn Street. This patient was promptly removed to hospital, and the house, &c. disinfected.

At this time a Sub-Committee was appointed to confer and advise with me in the event of more cases being notified, and at my suggestion the County Medical Officer of Health was asked to come over and assist us with his advice, and he accordingly did so.

On June 3rd, two more cases were notified, one in a child in Egerton Street, who was in the habit of playing with the children where the first case had occurred, and another in Schofield Street, in a man who had been to the house in Blackburn Street where the former case had occurred. Both cases were removed to Hospital and disinfection performed, and I vaccinated as many of the neighbours as I could convince of the utility of vaccination.



On June 4th, another case occurred in Egerton Street, in a baby a few weeks old, in a house next door to the other case ; this case had to be treated at home, fortunately without any ill effects, the father and mother being promptly vaccinated.

On June 6th, the Committee visited a site for a Small Pox Hospital, and instructed the Surveyor to prepare plans &c., in case the epidemic continued to spread, and our arrangements to send the cases to the Salford Hospital came suddenly to an end.

On June 10th, a suspicious case was notified in Holland Street, but probably this was really a case of Chicken Pox.

On June 12th, another case occurred in Robert Street, in a man who worked with the husband of the woman who had been removed to Hospital from Howarth Street the week before. The usual measures were taken as to removal, re-vaccination, and disinfection, and to the great satisfaction of the Committee and myself no further cases occurred.

All the cases were of a mild type, and all recovered, but in view of the general neglect of vaccination in the district for several years, and the uncertainty as to the length of time our Hospital arrangements would continue, we have reason to be thankful that our efforts were successful in limiting infection before it had reached unmanageable proportions, and in my opinion it demonstrates once again how emphatically it becomes our duty, either alone, or better still in combination with other Sanitary Authorities, to provide a Small Pox Hospital in readiness for another out-break of the disease.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Scarlet Fever has again been prevalent during the whole of the year, 136 cases having been notified, and six deaths registered, giving a mortality of 4.4 per cent., so that the disease though wide-spread as in 1893, when 170 cases were notified with 8 deaths was of a mild type. We have no hospital accommodation for Scarlet Fever, but I am of opinion much good might be done if the sick room &c., were disinfected at the termination of every case, and if your Council decide to provide what is most urgently needed, viz :—An efficient disinfecting apparatus for the purification of bedding, clothing, &c., from all infectious cases.







**Diphtheria.**—Seven cases of this disease were notified, but caused no deaths. There were however, five deaths from Membranous Croup, which in the opinion of many is really diphtheria affecting the wind pipe.


**Typhoid and Continued Fevers.**—28 cases of these diseases were notified with four deaths, a mortality of 14·2 per cent. None of the cases were traced to an impure milk or water supply. It is well known that the infection of Typhoid is carried in the excreta of the patient, and in my opinion it would be quite practicable to supply pails properly constructed to houses where Typhoid was notified, which pails could be reserved for the excreta of the patient, and could be taken away at frequent intervals and the infectious excreta buried or otherwise destroyed.

**Whooping Cough.**—One death only was registered, and from **Diarrhœa**, only 11 as compared with 31 in 1893.

**Phthisis.**—The death rate from Phthisis was 1·25 per 1,000: and that from diseases of the chest (Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy), 4 per 1,000, *i.e.*—One fourth of the mortality from all diseases was due to those of the respiratory system.

**Water**—The water supplied by the Bury Corporation has been much cleaner, and complaints of its quality much fewer than during the dry summer of 1893.

**Scavenging.**—The scavenging of the district is now performed almost entirely by the Sanitary Authority, Mr Pearson informing me that less than 100 tons were removed last year by farmers. All the refuse containing excreta is taken away for manure, and only excreta-free refuse is deposited on the tips in the district. I would, however, respectfully submit to you that these tips become at times a nuisance and a danger to health, and that some more radical method of dealing with refuse should be adopted. I desire also to point out that a staff of seven men and five horses is quite inadequate for the scavenging department of a town with 25,000 inhabitants, and that a considerable increase in the staff is needed in order to make the ashpit and privy system—never a good one—at least tolerable.



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**The Canal Boats** have been visited 15 times and 21 inspections made.

**The Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses, and the Lodging House** have been regularly visited and found in a clean and satisfactory condition. Visits and inspections have also been made under the "Factories and Workshops Acts," and also where offensive trades are carried on.

No food unfit for consumption has been seized during the year.

In the department of Inspector of Nuisances, 114 nuisances have been abated, but in no case has it been found necessary to take legal proceedings for the abatement of the nuisance.

Nineteen observations of smoke have been made, but no proceedings taken.

In conclusion, the matters which in my opinion most urgently demand the attention of the Health Committee are as follows :—

1.—I am of opinion that it is very necessary for the proper sanitary supervision of the district that Mr. Pearson should devote the whole of his time to his duties as Sanitary Inspector. It is obvious that the routine inspection of a large district like that of Radcliffe, together with the multifarious duties imposed on the Inspector with regard to milk shops, factories and workshops, canal boats, bake-houses, slaughter-houses, inspection of meat, observation of smoky mill chimneys, together with the general superintendence of the scavenging department form a series of duties quite sufficient to absorb all the time and energy of one person at least.

2.—The provision of a disinfecting apparatus.

3.—An increase in the scavenging department.

4.—The erection of a Destructor to deal with the refuse now deposited on tips.

5.—The provision of hospital accommodation—Firstly for small-pox, and secondly for other infectious diseases.



I desire to thank the Sanitary Committee for the kindness and consideration shewn me at all times in the performance of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

*WM. SELLERS, Junr.,*

*M.D. Lond., Medical Officer of Health.*

Births to June 25th..... 299

„ „ December 31st. .... 416

Total for whole year ..... 715

Population to June 25th ..... 20,700

„ „ December 31st. .... 25,000

Cases of sickness notified during the year :—

	To June 25th.	To Dec. 31st.	Total.
Small-pox .....	7	—	7
Scarlatina .....	75	61	136
Diphtheria .....	2	5	7
Membranous Croup.....	2	1	3
Typhoid Fever .....	4	17	21
Continued Fever .....	3	4	7
Relapsing „ .....	—	1	1
Puerperal „ .....	1	1	2
Erysipelas .....	16	14	30
	110	104	214

Mortality from all cases at subjoined ages :—

1894.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 & up- wards.	Total
January to June 25th.	50	22	4	7	52	38	173
June 26th to December 31st.	59	23	6	8	59	36	191
Total for Year.	109	45	10	15	111	74	364



TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1894.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
SMALL POX.	..	..	..	..	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
CHOLERA.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
DIPHTHERIA.	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	7
MEMBRANOUS CROUP.	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
ERYSIPELAS.	1	3	5	5	1	1	..	4	4	1	1	4	30
SCARLET FEVER.	11	10	9	15	16	14	3	5	3	10	22	18	136
TYPHUS.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
ENTERIC FEVER.	1	1	..	1	..	1	3	1	2	4	4	3	21
RELAPSING FEVER.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
CONTINUED FEVER.	..	..	2	..	1	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	7
PUERPERAL FEVER.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Total.	15	14	16	22	21	22	8	12	10	17	28	29	214





Table of Deaths from various Diseases, distinguishing between persons  
under five and those five years and upwards.

	ZEPHYRA	MEMBRANOUS CHOLERA	ENTERIC or TYPHOID FEVER	PERIPNEUMONIA	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Dysentery and Diarrhoea	RHEUMATIC FEVER	PHTHISIS	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy	HEART DISEASE	INJURIES	ALL OTHER DISEASES	TOTAL
1894.														
January to June 25th.														
UNDER 5.	...	2	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	15	1	...	51	72
5 AND UPWARDS.	3	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	15	35	15	2	27	101
June 25th to December 31st.														
UNDER 5.	3	1	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	15	...	1	53	82
5 AND UPWARDS.	...	1	3	1	...	...	1	...	14	26	8	5	50	109
For the whole year														
UNDER 5	3	3	...	...	1	1	10	...	...	30	1	1	104	151
5 UPWARDS.	3	2	4	1	1	...	1	1	29	61	23	7	77	210





